

Top official praises Hong Kong's role in national development over 40 years of economic liberalization

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The central government's top liaison official in Hong Kong has urged the city to seize the opportunities created by the nation's latest advances in reform and opening-up.

Wang Zhimin, director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), made the call at the 2018 Boao Forum for Asia Youth Summit (Hong Kong) on Nov 8.

He said the reform and opening-up policy has brought immense changes to the nation as a whole, as reflected in increased productivity, enhanced living standards and opening minds.

The robust economic growth has also enabled China to become the "engine" for the global economy, with the world's second-largest economy having contributed about one-third to global economic growth since 2012.

Hong Kong, a significant platform connecting the nation and world, has contributed a lot to national development during the 40 years since the policy was launched, and has also benefited from it, said Wang.

Under the country's new round of reform and opening-up, which will be wider and deeper, Wang hopes the SAR can grasp the opportunities to achieve greater success.

Also speaking at the event, HKSAR Chief Executive Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor noted that China has developed at an "astonishing" speed since it adopted the opening-up policy.

"What has impressed me most in the past 40 years is that on top of pursuing development ourselves, the nation is also actively embracing the world with its own contributions," she said.

Besides economic performance, China has made a great impact on the global political arena, technology and environment protection.

Citing the inaugural China International Import Expo in Shanghai — which ran from Nov 5 to 10 — Lam said the country's first national-level import-themed expo attracted more than 3,600 enterprises from more than 172 countries and regions.

Describing the event as a "breakthrough", she felt "glorious" that Hong Kong could play a role in it, with more than 160 enterprises from the SAR participating. A 126-square-meter Hong Kong exhibition area was set up to showcase the city's gateway to foreign trade.

As the nation opens up further, Lam hopes Hong Kong youths can equip themselves with an interna-



From sixth left: Wang Zhimin, director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong SAR; Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor, chief executive of the HKSAR; Li Baodong, vice-minister of foreign affairs and secretary-general of Boao Forum for Asia; Xie Feng, commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the HKSAR, and other guests attend the 2018 Boao Forum for Asia Youth Summit (Hong Kong) on Nov 8.

PHOTOS BY ROY LIU / CHINA DAILY ASIA WEEKLY

## HK urged to seize reform opportunities



More than 1,500 guests took part in the 2018 Boao Forum for Asia Youth Summit (Hong Kong) on Nov 8.

tional outlook and tap opportunities beyond the city.

Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Li Baodong called on Hong Kong's young people to grasp the "historic"

opportunities offered by the nation's two pivotal strategies — the Belt and Road Initiative and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

Science and technology heavy-

weights and leading startup stakeholders also discussed the city's artificial intelligence (AI) development and talent cultivation at the forum.

To push the AI industry forward,

Liu Qifeng, executive vice-president of the Hong Kong Society of Artificial Intelligence and Robotics, said "four bridges" should be built, linking the supervision bodies and the academic and business sectors, local universities and enterprises, talents and companies, as well as Hong Kong and the world.

"These four bridges are important for the development of AI in the city," Liu said.

Other guests at the event included Xie Feng, commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the HKSAR, and Henry Tang Ying-yen, the SAR's former chief secretary for administration and now a member of the Standing Committee of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

Launched in 2009, the forum has explored social issues extensively. This year's event was co-organized by the Boao Forum for Asia and local youth group, the Y.Elites Association. More than 1,500 guests, including political and business leaders, specialists and scholars from Hong Kong and overseas, also took part.